IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 60 and 62 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A retractor useful in surgery, said retractor ~~having~~ comprising

a main structural member defining

a handle region,

a distal region, and

an intermediate region, said intermediate region curving on planes normal to ~~its~~ a main transverse dimension thereby to define a low profile form having a ~~"~~concave~~"~~ lower side and a ~~"~~convex~~"~~ upper side,

a light duct having an inlet end and an emission end ~~capable of~~ ducting light ~~it receives~~received at the inlet end to the emission end,

said light duct, at least in a part away from ~~its handle proximate~~ the inlet end, substantially conforming to the curving intermediate region of the main structural member so as to maintain a low profile thereover whilst having ~~an~~ the emission end capable of emitting light the light duct has received and ducted

towards a zone in which said distal region of the main structural member is being operated,

an attachment apparatus ~~integral with or~~ attaching to the light duct at or adjacent the inlet end of the light duct ~~engaged~~ and engaging with, or for engagement with, the main structural member, and

a shielding member ~~attachable to at least one of~~

~~i) the attachment member,~~

~~ii) the light duct, and~~

~~iii) the intermediate member~~

~~so as, also in a low profile at least in part away from its handle proximate end, of substantially conforming to the light duct and/or the adjacent intermediate region~~ protective of all of the light duct over the curving intermediate region of the main structural member and protective of at least most of the light duct extending from the curving intermediate region towards the distal region of the main structural member, said shield member at least attaching to the main structural member.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 48 ~~in which~~, wherein the light duct is a moulded transparent plastics member ~~preferably~~ having the attachment apparatus integrally moulded therewith.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 48 ~~in which~~, wherein the light duct ~~is a fabrication from~~ includes two moulded components.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 48 ~~in which~~, wherein said light duct is adapted at ~~its~~ the inlet end to receive light ducted via one of a light cable, a fibre optic bundle~~,~~ and a tube~~, light cable or the like~~.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 48~~in which the~~, wherein a ratio between the light inlet surface area and light outlet surface area is a ratio of no less than 1:1 and no more than 1:11.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 52~~in which the~~, wherein a ratio between the light inlet surface area and light outlet surface area is 1:2.2.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 48~~in which~~, wherein the emission end of the light duct is substantially of a flattened section so as to better conform to the low profile of the intermediate region.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 54 ~~in which~~, wherein the ~~flattening and broadening~~flattened section is such that the ~~outlet~~ emission end is at least 50% thinner than the inlet end ~~diameter or notional diameter and is at least as wide as two such diameters~~.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 55 ~~in which~~, wherein the ~~flattening and broadening~~flattened section is such that the ~~outlet~~ emission end is at least 75% thinner than the inlet end ~~diameter or notional diameter and is at least as wide as three or more such diameters~~.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 54 ~~in which~~,wherein the light duct splays to said flattened ~~form~~ section from a non flattened form at the inlet end.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 57 ~~in which~~, wherein the shielding member ~~has a form adapted to conform~~conforms closely to the flattened ~~form~~ section of the light duct.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The retractor assembly ~~suitable for hip or other joint surgery, the assembly comprising or including~~

~~a structural member capable of being used as a retractor, the structural member having, as a proximal region, a handle or manipulation control region extending through a curved region to a distal region adapted for use in a suitable patient,~~

~~at least one light ducting means carried directly or indirectly by the structural member with a light inlet in use to receive light and, reliant on internal reflection of the light, to transmit such received light to an emission zone which will cast light to a zone at and/or about said distal region, and~~ according to claim 48, further comprising at least one LED or other light source carried ~~directly or indirectly~~ by the main structural member and positioned to provide light ~~inputs~~ input into the ~~inlet(s)~~ inlet end of the light ~~ducting means~~ duct, and provision for mounting a battery and completing ~~the~~ an operating circuit of the ~~LED(s)~~ at least one LED or other light ~~source(s)~~ source, wherein when assembled the light ~~ducting means can illuminate~~ duct illuminates the ~~and/or about the~~ distal region.

Claim 60 (Cancelled)

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): The retractor assembly according to claim 59 ~~in which the~~ wherein completion of the operating circuit of the at least one LED or other light source is performed by a switch.

Claim 62 (Cancelled)